

Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application, and stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner comments that the recitation "arranged on a side opposite to an output shaft side of the vehicle driving apparatus" is ambiguous and inaccurate. The Examiner further comments that "[i]n fig. 1, the drive shaft should be the element 2a."

The Applicant respectfully submits that, contrary to the Examiner's comments, the recitation "arranged on a side opposite to an output shaft side of the vehicle driving apparatus" is clear. Please note that element 6a is designated "an output shaft," while element 2a is designated "a crankshaft" or "drive shaft." See, e.g., the present specification at page 5, lines 26-28, referring to "a crankshaft (a drive shaft) 2a" and "an output shaft 6a"). As can be seen in FIG. 1, auxiliary device 22 is on an opposite side or end from output shaft 6a.

The Examiner further comments that "transmission" in claim 1, line 31 is ambiguous. Along lines discussed above, and with reference to FIG. 1, please note that automatic transmission (A/T) 6 is arranged at the output shaft side (element 6a = an output shaft).

Similar remarks apply to the rejection of claims 21, 23 and 25. In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 21, 23 and 25 meet the requirements of 35 USC 112, 2nd par. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 USC 112, 2nd par. is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 were further rejected as being unpatentable over Tsuzuki (US 6,018,198) in view of Omote et al. (US 5,735,770) and further in view of Yamada et al. (US 5,942,862) (hereafter, "Yamada '862") and Yamada et al. (US 5,909,094) (hereafter, "Yamada '094").

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under § 103, all claim limitations of a claimed invention must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See MPEP, Section 2143.03 and In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). In view of the

foregoing authority, the Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not support the asserted rejection.

The references fail to support the rejection for at least the reason that they are silent as to recitations of each of independent claims 1, 21, 23 and 25. The recitations include a vehicle driving apparatus in which power from an engine is transferred to an output shaft 6a from a crankshaft (drive shaft 2a) of the engine through a torque converter 4 and an automatic transmission 6. The recitations further include a motor generator 26 and an auxiliary device 22 located on an outer periphery of the engine, at sides of the drive shaft and opposite to an output shaft side. The recitations further include that the torque converter is connected to an output end of the drive shaft.

As indicated above, the cited combination of references does not suggest at least the noted claim recitations. Accordingly, claims 1, 21, 23 and 25 are allowable over the references. Moreover, the dependent claims are likewise allowable for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-26 as being unpatentable over Tsuzuk in view of Omote et al., Yamada '862 and Yamada '094 is therefore respectfully requested.


In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted

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